

Lawrence Clean Indoor Air Ordinance nominated for Award

The city of Lawrence passed a comprehensive clean indoor air ordinance May 4. This ordinance, combined with smoking restrictions passed in 1987, prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and places of employment.

This includes, but is not limited to, common work areas, auditoriums, classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, private offices, elevators, hallways, company-owned vehicles, employee lounges, stairs, restrooms, and all other enclosed facilities. The law also requires that every business have a written clean indoor air policy and that the policy is communicated to its employees.

After the city of Salina adopted the state's first clean indoor ordinance in November 2002, Lawrence Mayor David Dunfield created a Task Force in April 2003 to study the issue for their city. The efforts to support a model comprehensive clean indoor air ordinance were initiated by the Clean Air Lawrence Coalition (CAL). Clean Air Lawrence is a grassroots coalition of more than 70 individuals and community groups who are concerned about the harmful health effects of secondhand smoke.

The coalition's motto is - *Good Health is Good Business!* - and is hopeful this ordinance will contribute to a reduction in lost workdays, clean-up costs and health insurance costs.

In a letter to Lawrence City Commissioners, followed by a petition, Lawrence citizens wrote, "we appreciate a business owner's interest in running his or her own affairs, but the issue of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke is everybody's business. The employees of businesses that allow smoking have no choice. They are forced to breathe carcinogenic air while at work. With fewer healthcare dollars, and more smoke related diseases, we all pay in the end."

Lawrence has been nominated for an [American's For Nonsmokers Rights](#) award. Winners will be announced later this summer.

The ordinance went into effect July 1. For more information, please visit www.cleanairlawrence.org. For information about quitting smoking call toll free 1-866-Kan-Stop or <http://www.kanstop.org/>.